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Lesson Plan: *They Called Themselves the KKK*

Overview: Students will be focused on the personal vignettes presented throughout the book. They will reduce a script to poetry via a “black-out” exercise in which the script is blacked out leaving only the most essential words. These words are put together forming a poem. Then, students will trade their poems with a partner. They will perform a reverse exercise in which they expand their partner’s poem into a personal vignette.

Targets:

WP12: Add and delete info and details to elaborate on stated central idea.

RP1: Apply reading comprehension strategies, including making predictions, making inferences, and drawing conclusions.

WA6: Produce informal writings (journals, notes, and poems) for various purposes.

WA1: Write narratives that include specific narration.

WA2: Write responses to literature that organize an insightful interpretation around several clear ideas, premises, or images.

Activity Part I:

\*Students/Class have read and discussed the book

\* Copies of the personal vignettes are provided

1.) Distribute a short piece of text, and model the “black-out” exercise with students.

2.) Students will select one of the personal vignettes from the book for their poetry focus.

3.) Students are asked to go through the vignette and “black-out” the text, leaving only the most essential words or phrases intact.

4.) Students will then put these key words and phrases together to form a poem:

EXAMPLE:

Uncle Charlie Burns

“Everybody Free, everybody free”

Proclamation

De slaves is free

“You don’t have to call nobody master no more”

Activity Part II:

1.) Students will trade their poems with a partner. Using the partner’s poem, they will create a short story (vignette) based on the key ideas presented in the poem.

EXAMPLE:

Uncle Charlie Burns was working in the field when a young black man on a horse road up shouting “Everybody free, everybody free!” Charlie thought the young man had lost his marbles. Soon though, Miss Mary Pritchett, a kindly white woman, showed up to tell Charlie that a proclamation had been signed into law. The proclamation freed all the slaves including Charlie himself. “De slaves is free! De slaves is free!” shouted Charlie. His wife flew out of the old log shack and into Charlie’s arms. “Honey,” she cried, “You don’t have to call nobody master no more!”

2.) Share poems/newly created vignettes as a class and exhibit student work in the classroom.